



MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN,  
AND THE  
YANKEE FARMER.  
SATURDAY MORNING, SEPT. 16, 1842.

Executive Power.

The extreme power of the Executive of the United States, has been so often asserted within a few years that many politicians who were erstwhile of a strong government, are now in doubt whether so much weight was not thrown into the executive scale on the first adjustment of the balance of powers in the Constitution.

The party which took the lead in framing that instrument—the old federal party—were extremely solicitous of rendering the government so strong as to be able to withstand all tumultuous attacks, and the greatest fears of the old federal party were, that the new government would not be strong enough. They had felt the evils of inefficiency under the old confederation and it was quite natural that in taking the lead, in favor of a new system, they should advocate a plan that should not fail in strength and energy. Accordingly many of the old federalists were in favor of having a Senate for life; and it was finally by some that nothing short of hereditary power would be able to sustain itself against the assaults of popular opinion.

When the Constitution was submitted to the Legislature of this State for ratification, strenuous opposition was made by the party who were in opposition to the new government. The opposition was based on the ground of the great powers conferred on the President and the members of the House were to hold their seats for two years.

The ruling party—the strong government party—at length prevailed; they infused into the new system all the strength they could stave of granting hereditary power. They gave the Executive, or rather the President alone, the right to nominate any bill that might be passed by the two houses; and with his simple veto against a bill, he could prevent it from becoming a law. The members of the Legislature could pass it into a law.

It is true this is but a negative power, and it has never created much jealousy among those who were opposed to executive grants; still it is an immense power, since it enables any President to bring the majority to his own terms. Money must be granted for current expenses, for the pay of the members; and when one bill is disagreeable to the President alone, he does not insist that another shall be passed more agreeable to his own views.

It is quite natural for all who are opposed to the general views of any leading party to rejoice when obstacles are thrown in the way of its career; but all who do not intend to be yoked and chained to party should take a general view of the subject, instead of confining their minds to the benefits which are sometimes derived from an extraordinary exertion of power by a single individual. One good man might administer the government and pass all the necessary laws better, and at less cost, than two hundred could do it. Yet few would be willing to entrust so much power to an individual; and we should ever bear in mind that great power is liable to great abuse.

But the President of the United States has other powers, granted by the Constitution, which are more liable to abuse than the veto power. The power of nominating every high officer of the nation rests in him; and he is not bound to choose a man of the highest character, but he may choose a man of the lowest.

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THE NEW TARIFF LAW. A cargo of 260 cases of crocheted goods, each containing 1200 lbs. is now landing at this port. This 210,000 lbs. of goods was imported from Amsterdam, and paid a duty of 20 per cent ad valorem, or about 18-4 cts a pound. Under the new law the duty is 4 cents a pound, making a difference of over \$12,000 on the cargo. When this sugar was sent here, it was intended to export it to Italy, with the benefit of draw back, but having been directed into our favorable position, it will of course be retained here.

A cargo of brandy is also landing, which was admitted last week at a duty of 20 per cent. Under the new tariff the duty is \$1 a gallon, or about five times the former duty.

These will serve all specimens of the operation of the new tariff upon importers who have on hand large stocks of goods of particular descriptions. Up on merchandise whose cargoes are yet to arrive, it will in some cases operate unfavorably.

A merchant remarked to us the other day, while the details of the bill were under discussion in Congress, that the decision of the question whether the tariff should be free, or pay a duty of 20 per cent, would affect his interests to the amount of \$50,000.

The cash duties obtained by the new tariff, will operate very severely upon houses of small means, inasmuch as, after purchasing the goods abroad, an amount of duty greater in some cases than the cost of the goods, must be paid in cash before any thing can be realized from sales. (New York Journal of Commerce.)

Fifty thousand dollars! Fifty thousand! So much in one man's pocket in consequence of making great changes in the tariff. The time may come when this country will be more cautious of making great alterations in the rates of duties. We want a uniform steady policy.

In regard to the operation of cash duties we think we will all like to except those duties which are imposed on large business without capital and calculation on the credit of the government for aid. Cash duties will check excessive importations, and this is what the country requires.

It seems to be the impression of business men of all parties that the new tariff will give a start to business of all kinds. Whether it will adjust time must determine. [Ed.]

SAVE YOUR PAPERS. The last number of the Ploughman contained the late Treaty between the United States and Great Britain. The present number will be found to contain the principal items of the new tariff compared with the old one of 1823.

Have your numbers therefore and not be dependent on your neighbors for information at a future day when your memory may not serve you.

Our INDEX will be published at the close of the first volume. Our year commenced Oct. 2d.

NOT THE THING. It seems that the guests at the Ashburton dinner in New York, would not rise to drink the toast to the President, but drank it in silence. When the Queen was treated they rose and cheered stoutly. This has been counted partly extensively. "Young men" should never go out to dine, until they have learned how to behave.

U AND I. It would be well if you and I were ingenious. It would be better if we were at the same time ingenious and ingenuous. It would be best to mark the difference between the two, and avoid all duplicity.

IT-P. The Democratic State Convention assembled on Wednesday at Faneuil Hall. It is said twelve or fifteen hundred were present. Hon. Marcus Morton was nominated for Governor and H. H. Childs for Lieut. Governor.

IT-P. There will be a Camp Meeting in West Needham near the edge of Weston, next week. Trains of cars will stop near the West Needham station.

THE BIRTH OF THE MEMBERS. The bill of the members of the Legislature, who were born in this State, is now before the House. It is said that the bill will be passed.

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LEGISLATIVE.

EXTRA SESSION.

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 1842.

A joint committee of two members from the Senate and three members from the House waited upon his Excellency the Governor and announced that the two bodies were prepared for any communication he might wish to make.

At half past eleven the Secretary of State came in with the Governor's Message which was then read.

MESSAGE.

Filler Citizens of the Senate and House of Representatives:

The delay of Congress to pass an appropriation bill in season for your action has made this session necessary. Since your separation, such a law has been enacted, and the representation has been assigned to the several States for ten years to come.

The duty which devolves upon Congress every ten years is one of high trust, involving considerations of great importance, as it is a distribution to each of the States of its share of power for that period in the popular branch of the national Legislature. The small States, especially, have a great interest in the ratio, as it may be easily so fixed as to take from the large, a third, a fifth, &c. of their power while the loss of a large State will be so considerable as not to be felt. The large States manifestly have in their power to favor themselves, and to thereby diminish the power of the small States.

In the apportionment upon the census of 1830, the whole unrepresented fraction was 175,472—making a loss of nearly ten members. The ratio established was 47,700, from which the number of Massachusetts was reduced from thirteen to twelve, and her unrepresented fraction was 25,000, while the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana and Georgia, having one hundred and ten members, had an aggregate unrepresented fraction of 33,019; thus Massachusetts was required to sacrifice more of her political power than all these States. In the same apportionment Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, with twenty-two members, had an aggregate unrepresented fraction of 110,260—while New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, and Kentucky, with one hundred and twenty-four members, had an aggregate unrepresented fraction of only 46,782.

From these facts it is easy to deduce the importance of a just and fair apportionment, which equalizes as far as possible the facts as unrepresented, and especially does justice to the weaker States.

By the law of 1842, the number of our representation is reduced two, and we have a large unrepresented fraction.

Several new principles have been introduced into this law which merit notice.

First. The whole number of representatives was 212 has been reduced to 210, while the constituency has been increased from twelve to seventeen millions. This appears to have found favor on the ground that business may be done by a smaller number with greater despatch, while better order and greater decision will be maintained.

This view of the subject may to some extent be just, but it merits grave consideration whether the best and most enduring interests of the people are promoted by curtailing the representation of an increased constituency. The popular branch is designed to be the exponent of public opinion, and it is to be sufficiently numerous to bring it to the halls of legislation the views, sentiments and wants of the people. A representative should be what the term implies, for he made in the place of the people who elect him acting for them and in their behalf; and if he is unfaithful to them or they are unfaithful to him, the object of the constitution is frustrated. Besides, all experience teaches us that there is safety in numbers—that large deliberative bodies are not so easily misled as small ones on the ground that business may be done by a smaller number with greater despatch, while better order and greater decision will be maintained.

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and one only awaits the sanction of the Queen of the United Kingdom, when it will doubtless be made public. The provisions contained in this instrument, so far as regards the Northeastern portion of the boundary, received the unanimous approbation of the Commissioners of Maine and Massachusetts.

The copy which appears in the public press seems to be understood as varying in no essential particulars from the treaty. By this and through other sources we learn, that the boundary from the mouth of the St. Croix river, to the Rocky Mountains, a distance probably of three thousand miles, has been finally adjusted, though a large portion of this line has still some been in dispute. It is believed that at all points on this extensive tract except at the northeast angle, Great Britain has conceded the claims of the United States; and among other things, has surrendered an important portion of territory on the line of Vermont and New York, containing the fortification at Ross's point, in which territory her claims were unquestioned, though it was believed to be in the United States till the survey was made under the treaty of Ghent. This fortification, which commands the outlet of Lake Champlain, was commenced soon after the last war by the United States because of the military importance of the site, but the work was suspended when the true line was traced.

By the boundary as agreed to, between Maine and the British province, a territory, of which the two States were co-proprietors, most of which is inhabited, and relinquished, and each of the States to receive the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, on an equivalent thereof, and to enjoy the free navigation of the St. John, with the benefit of the Custom market. There are other stipulations by which the expenses of maintaining a civil possession of this frontier are to be reimbursed, and the fund in the hands of provincial officers arising from the sale of timber lawfully cut down is secured to the States.

Upon a deliberate and careful consideration of the merits of the property, and all the circumstances which affected themselves with the controversy, the commission from each of the States caused the small portion of the Maine whose interests are strongly situated to be better observed by according to the proposed terms, than to submit to the delays and hazard incident to the renewal of the arbitration which was the vicarious proposal by the late administration in case an agreement could be made.

The arrangement has terminated a controversy of a dangerous and threatening aspect, as it was surrounded with irritating circumstances which were constantly becoming more aggravated in their character, and thus menacing the peace of the two countries. There is now a prospect before us of enjoying all blessings which flow from pacific relations allied by which the interests of the States would be better served by according to the proposed terms, than to submit to the delays and hazard incident to the renewal of the arbitration which was the vicarious proposal by the late administration in case an agreement could be made.

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nor will it be till the principle of distribution is asserted and maintained. This may be done by such a law as was enacted at the extra session, or by an average amount received from the sale of public lands in ordinary years may be ascertained, and that sum paid into the treasury, while the surplus shall be distributed. Until the one or the other is accomplished, there will be no lasting prosperity.

JOHN DAVIS, Counsel Chamber, Sept. 7, 1842.

The Message was laid on the table, and two thousand copies ordered to be printed.

A committee on the part of the House was appointed to select a committee to be appointed to inquire into the doings of the Adjutant General, in issuing orders, &c., with a long series of other inquiries. A motion was made to lay this order upon the table.

Upon motion of Mr. Thomas, the yeas and nays were taken on the motion to lay upon the table, and stood, yeas 161, nays 117—the order was laid upon the table.

Mr. Adams of Boston, from the committee appointed to draft the Commonwealth, presented a report from that committee with a bill, which was read; 12,000 extra copies were ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Hale, of Bridgewater, it was ordered that after to day, the regular hours for the meeting of the House, be fixed at 10 o'clock in the morning, and 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

The committee appointed to consult and report with regard to the action to be taken by the Legislature the present session, reported that it was expedient to confine themselves to the subject of districting the Commonwealth.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 8th. The House met and came to order at 10 o'clock, according to adjournment.

On motion of Mr. Train, of Framingham, the Sergeant-at-Arms was ordered to supply the members of the House with daily newspapers.

A message was received from his Excellency the Governor, with certain documents.

Mr. Ward of Salem, made a motion to recommit the report and bill of the districting committee, to a special committee of one from each congressional district, with instructions to report to-morrow morning.

Upon motion of Mr. Thomas of Charlestown, the whole subject matter was laid upon the table.

The President of the U. S. was in an adjoining room, and signed a resolution which was passed by his administration.

On motion of Mr. Evans, a committee, in conjunction with one which might be designated by the House was ordered to be appointed to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that if he had no further communication to make, the two Houses were ready to bring the session to a close.

A message was received from the House of Representatives, stating that they had concurred in the resolution of the Senate, appointing a committee to wait upon the President.

Mr. Evans made a report, stating that they had performed their duty and that the President had informed them he had no further legislative communications to make; but that he would immediately present several Executive nominations, made necessary by the passage of the bill to organize the Navy Department.

A message was received from the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that







